

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

17 January 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

For years CIA has made available to responsible authorities outside the Government, including journalists and scholars, data, analyses and reports on the economies of the Communist countries. (A representative list of such publications and reports is attached for your information.)

My predecessor, Mr. Allen Dulles, his Deputy, General Cabell, Mr. Robert Amory and other CIA officials have discussed the problems of Communist economies in briefings and have made at least 50 public speeches between 1954 and October, 1961.

On November 13, 1959, the then DCI testified at an open hearing of the Joint Economic Committee. (For your information a resume of that testimony is attached.)

Background briefings on this subject have been given by CIA officials prior to October 1961 to journalists either individually or in groups. (A representative list of such briefings is attached for your information.)

Since I became DCI, no speeches or attributable briefings have been made by myself or other officials in CIA.

Therefore, the recent release with authorized attribution represents a departure from what may be termed the "McCone policy of anonymity" but not a departure from Agency policy over the last 10 years.

CIA possesses the best expertise on the Soviet economy in the United States Government. Journalists and scholars are aware of this. Therefore, release by the Department of State of any other department or agency would not have the desired impact. Moreover, it is also possible to argue that the Department of State with its primary responsibility for the conduct of foreign policy would be liable to the charge of

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trying to influence policy by the release of factual data. CIA, which has no "policy ax" to grind, could release such data as a matter of factual information.

I recommend that consideration be given to making future releases on the subject of the Communist economies through CIA with attribution to that Agency. Such releases would be made when the security interests of the United States dictate that such a release would be helpful, but a release would be made only after coordination on substance, timing and tactics with the White House, the Department of State and certain Chairmen of Congressional committees.

JOHN A. McCONE  
Director